

Serial No. 09/501,168

Remarks

Claims 1-22 were pending in the application. Claims 9 and 18 are hereby canceled. Therefore, claims 1-8, 10-17, and 19-22 remain pending in the application.

Claims 1-8, 21 and 22 stand allowed.

Claims 10-16 and 18-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 9 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,233,456 issued to Schiff et al. on May 15, 2001.

Each of the various rejections and objections are overcome by amendments that are made to the specification, drawing, and/or claims, as well as, or in the alternative, by various arguments that are presented.

Any amendments to any claim for reasons other than as expressly recited herein as being for the purpose of distinguishing such claim from known prior art are not being made with an intent to change in any way the literal scope of such claims or the range of equivalents for such claims. They are being made simply to present language that is better in conformance with the form requirements of Title 35 of the United States Code or is simply clearer and easier to understand than the originally presented language. Any amendments to any claim expressly made in order to distinguish such claim from known prior art are being made only with an intent to change the literal scope of such claim in the most minimal way, i.e., to just avoid the prior art in a way that leaves the claim novel and not obvious in view of the cited prior art, and no equivalent of any subject matter

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 9 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,233,456 issued to Schiff et al. on May 15, 2001.

Applicants have canceled claim 9 and rewritten claim 10 in independent form. Since claim 10 was indicated to be allowable in independent form, and since claims 11-16 depend from claim 10, claims 10-16 are allowable.

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Similarly, applicants have amended claim 17 to include the limitation of claim 18, which is hereby canceled, effectively rewriting claim 18 in independent form, but numbered as claim 17. Since claim 18 was indicated to be allowable in independent form, and since claims 19 and 20 depend from claim 17 which is effectively claim 18 rewritten in independent form, claims 19 and 20 are allowable.

Conclusion

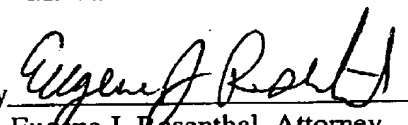
It is respectfully submitted that the Office Action's rejections have been overcome and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are, therefore, respectfully solicited.

If, however, the Examiner still believes that there are unresolved issues, he is invited to call applicant's attorney so that arrangements may be made to discuss and resolve any such issues.

In the event that an extension of time is required for this amendment to be considered timely, and a petition therefor does not otherwise accompany this amendment, any necessary extension of time is hereby petitioned for, and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the appropriate cost of such petition to the **Lucent Technologies Deposit Account No. 12-2325**.

Respectfully,

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